MARYLAND GAZETTE. 65

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1776

CASSANDRA to CATO.

(Concluded from our laſt.)

THE king of Great-Britain, though our king, will ever join the parliament againſt us, as often as a contention happens. The parliament are his tools; and their illegal claims are only a ſpecious covering for his endeavours after arbitrary power in the firſt place; and in the ſecond place, his crown, his dignity and his ſupport, depends entirely upon their grants, and not upon ours. He will therefore take part with them on every occaſion. On the contrary, his repreſentatives are not ſo dependent on us as to oblige them to take part with us. This is not all; for in every province, where they had the power, they not only refuſed to concur in our meaſures, but alſo prevented us from making uſe of our repreſentatives, that we might not have the ſhadow of a legiſlature to ſupport us. And even in thoſe provinces where his power has not extended ſo far, he has conſtantly gone as far as he could. This is not all yet; for in many they have *corrupted* the ignorant and illiterate by bribes, ſet up the royal ſtandard againſt us, and obliged us to fight under every diſadvantage. Is it not ſo, Cato?

There is, therefore, a capital defect in our chartered conſtitutions---A defect which makes an eſſential difference between the preſent ſtate of our liberties, and that ſecured to Engliſhmen by MAGNA CHARTA.---A defect which, if not effectually removed, will oblige us ever to hold our liberties at the point of our ſwords, or by that *moſt precarious* of all tenures, *will* and *pleaſure*. The *immortal barons* were too wiſe to be *duped* by fair promiſes. They drew their ſwords, determined to obtain abſolute ſecurity; and they did obtain it. They obtained by *Magna Charta* the conſtitutional right of levying war againſt the king as often as he ſhould attempt to infringe upon the liberties of the people. Were our governors the choice of the people, and dependent on them for their ſalaries, we would, in the preſent caſe, be able to make a conſtitutional reſiſtance to oppreſſion; to oppoſe conſtitution to conſtitution. But this not being the caſe, the parliament has plainly the advantage. It is neceſſary, therefore, to our ſecurity, to have our governors as much dependent on the people of America as the king is on thoſe of Great-Britain, before our conſtitutions can be of any ſervice to us againſt Britiſh encroachments; or, that when our governors refuſe their concurrence, our repreſentatives ſhall have the privilege of ſetting them aſide, and acting legiſlatively without them. This is a clauſe as eſſential to the ſecurity of the rights of America, as the clauſe which grants to the people of Great-Britain the right of declaring war againſt the king, when he attempts to diſturb their privileges. Will Cato ſtand it out till this is obtained?

But as the conteſt is between us and the parliament, we ought now to enquire how we can be ſecured againſt parliamentary encroachments. The conſtitution of Great-Britain is ſuch, that what this parliament does the next can undo. And it is impoſſible for one parliament to paſs a bill, which will not be liable to a repeal by any future one, without deſtroying the *very eſſence of its own conſtitution*. Is there any remedy againſt this defect, Cato? Let us ſee the *conſtitutional dependent principles*, if you are a friend to liberty, which will give *abſolute and permanent* ſecurity to our liberties, and not leave us at the mercy of our enemy; and then we will talk further on the ſubject. We have gone too far; and have too much ſenſe to reſt our future ſafety on the probability of her letting us alone for the future.

Our conſtitutional connexion with Great-Britain is the very plea alleged by Great-Britain for her attempts to enſlave us. Now if this conſtitution is the *very foundation* of her claims, if ſhe, in conſequence thereof, has declared us *rebels*, which ſhe could not, unleſs ſhe ſuppoſed we violated the conſtitution by our reſiſtance; and if it was not in our power to make effectual oppoſition in ſtrict conformity to the conſtitutions ſhe gave us, why is Cato ſo fond of reconciling *on theſe principles* and on no others? This looks not like honeſty, Cato. If you love America, and your attachment to the *cauſe* is real, ANSWER TO THESE THINGS. A lover of truth and liberty will be afraid of no *queries* whatever. You ſay you have viewed the ground on which you ſtand, and are not afraid to tread it in the ſight of the moſt vigilant ſon of liberty. Here it is, come forth then, here I wiſh to find you. But I beſeech you examine it thoroughly firſt, explore its hidden receſſes; for I am well aſſured it contains a ſecret mine, which, if once ſprung, will either blow up you and your party, or our liberties.

This continent has had a twelve years conſtant experience, that the conſtitution of the colonies could not protect them from Britiſh oppreſſion. Can you deny it Cato? However it be againſt your preſent deſigns, yet *this you muſt acknowledge*. Can you tell the firſt day a committee exiſted on this continent? Did not that day tell the world we had no conſtitution that could withſtand Britiſh oppreſſion? Can you remember the time our aſſemblies were firſt diſſolved, for attempting to correſpond with one another, on the ſubject of our grievances? Did not that time convince *even* Cato himſelf, that our conſtitutions were not equal to the taſk of protecting themſelves? Do you recollect the hour our *worthy* governor refuſed to call our aſſembly, to conſult on ways and means to preſerve our liberties? Did not that hour inform you, that the *chartered conſtitution* of Pennſylvania could do nothing for us? Now if after ſo long, and ſo ſevere a trial of their defects, we ſhould ſtill take up with them on the recommendation of Cato, might not the world, particularly that part of it which you ſay is *looking at us*, laugh at our ſtupidity and folly?

Your firſt argument in ſupport of your creed is, that "agriculture and commerce have hitherto been the happy employments by which *theſe middle colonies* have riſen into wealth and importance. By them the face of the country has been changed from a barren wilderneſs into the hoſpitable abodes of peace and plenty." I forbear to point out your conſtant endeavours to ſeparate the intereſt of the *middle colonies* from the reſt; as if the wealth of the whole aroſe not from the ſame ſources; or, as if your deſcription of one or two would not anſwer for all. I alſo forbear to mention the care of your party to have your letters, though addreſſed to the people of Pennſylvania, reprinted in New-York and Maryland papers. When you have gone through the demonſtration how we can have effectual ſecurity to our liberties under ſo defective conſtitutions, then, and not till then, I ſhall call upon you to prove that agriculture and commerce would decay, if the whole world were our market inſtead of the Britiſh iſlands, and a few foreign ports to which we are moſt graciouſly permitted to export a few articles. I will alſo call on you to convince us, that a ſevere reſtraint on our trade in many inſtances, and in ſome a *total prohibition* tends to *enrich* us. And here it may not be amiſs to ſhew how poor the Hollanders have grown, ſince they became independent, and were obliged to ſupport all the expences the *Common Man* has mentioned. But Cato has given us common proofs of his attachment to trade, by declaring that he will *arm* againſt us as ſoon as we *form any alliance* with *ſuch powers* as are *able* and *willing* to *draw off the Britiſh fleets from blocking up our ports*. Our ports are now effectually ſhut by the fleets of Great Britain; and there is a total ſtop put to our exports. We have not yet a fleet which can open them. Our grain is ſpoiling, and the powers of Europe longing for an opportunity of taking it off our hands: All this can be removed by the alliance propoſed. But Cato ſees this would eternally fruſtrate the deſigns of his party: He has therefore laboured, by every artifice of cunning, to prevent our taking any ſtep of the kind. He hopes the country will by this means be brought to ſubmit; and he will triumph in our folly. But where is the real danger to our liberties, Cato, in accepting the aſſiſtance of a neighbouring fleet, until we have time to fit out one for the purpoſe? Were we to do this, would not agriculture and commerce flouriſh as uſual?

"That much of our former felicity was owing to the protection of England, is not to be denied; and that we might ſtill derive great advantages from her protection and friendſhip, *if not valued at too high a price*, is equally certain:" ſays Cato. I could pardon a few Iſraelitiſh murmurings, and hankerings for the onions of Egypt; but, to be inceſſantly called back to what we enjoyed while Joſeph lived, when behold a *Pharaoh now reigns* who knew him not, is inſult not to be endured. Cato cannot pretend ignorance of the *price* of the friendſhip ſo ſtrongly urges us to court. If he does, he is certainly a very dangerous guide for the good people to whom his letters are addreſſed. Caſſandra affirms the price is no leſs *than an abſolute ſurrender of all our rights, liberties and property*; and theſe once given up, he would gladly be informed what more is left for any power to invade? All animals, *under abſolute domination*, are nurſed *only to be fleeced*; however problematical may be the queſtion of *nurſing* the colonies, we have had the *fleecing* demonſtrated with a vengeance. Cato adds, "If the preſent differences can be accommodated, there is *ſcarce a probability* that ſhe will ever renew the late *fatal ſyſtem of policy*, or attempt to *employ force againſt us*." Two reaſons induce me to think the mode of attack would indeed be altered: For, obſtinate as the author of our oppreſſions is, he cannot longer flatter himſelf of our falling an eaſy prey to his force, if now inceſſantly continued; his *clemency* would then certainly diſpoſe him, *moſt graciouſly*, to enſlave us by his experienced much more ſucceſsful method of intrigue. But as Cato allows it is not *altogether* improbable that this force may be employed againſt us in ſome future day; Caſſandra would gladly be informed by what means we can be ſecured from *that force*, when by the treaty of protection we are cut off from the right of eſtabliſhing a force of our own.

Conſcious that this poor contrivance is prodigious ſtale, *a thouſand times repeated*, and *as often refuted* by moſt ſtubborn arguments, founded on twelve years invariable procedure, and really deſpairing to hold the people long in expectation of '*former protection*,' or any more than a mere deluſive change of the mode of attack, and that change as ill diſguiſed as any that have preceded it: Cato adds, as if all were one connected propoſition; if they will not make up on conſtitutional principles, "we have arms in our hands, and virtue enough to uſe them." As to *corruption*, Cato would have us believe there is hardly a man on the continent in danger from that quarter. Would to God we had adundant evidence of this univerſal integrity! Reſpecting the arms, Cato, with much devotion I praiſe the Director of human affairs that we have them in our hands; and I pray and confide in his over-ruling providence, that we may there keep them till our rights are placed on a firmer foundation than the *mere grace* of the *conniver* at the deſtruction of millions on one ſide of the globe, and *contriver* of the deva[illegible] now daily committing on the other. Well might Cato tell us of our arms; for he clearly foreſaw that no wiſe man could conceive himſelf ſafe in reconcilement *on his principles* without *holding* them in his hands *continually*. This paragraph, after flouriſhing away on the original ground of the conteſt, concludes, "and if, hereafter, in ſubſequent time, it ſhould be thought neceſſary to ſeparate from the land that gave birth to our anceſtors; it will be in our perfect ſtate of manhood, when we can wield our arms, and protect our commerce and ſocial by our own fleets, without looking to any nation on earth for aſſiſtance." Well ſaid, Cato! Here we agree for once. But now, that we are on good terms with each other, let me aſk you, in a friendly manner, how we are to become maſters of this fine fleet? Does Cato propoſe to inſiſt upon it as a *term* of *conſtitutional reconciliation* with the AMBASSADORS, that we ſhould be allowed to build ſuch a fleet? Or does he conceive, that when we are arrived at juſt twenty-one years of age, and about to commence houſe-keepers, our dear mother country will make us a preſent of ſuch a fleet to ſet up with? I confeſs myſelf greatly incredulous of either! If Cato can clear up my doubts on theſe important heads I will be much obliged to him.

It has been aſſerted, ſays Cato, "that we are able, with our land-forces, to defend ourſelves againſt the whole world—that if commerce be an advantage we may command what foreign alliance we pleaſe—that the moment we declare ourſelves an independent people, there are nations ready to face the Britiſh thunder, and become carriers of our commodities to enrich themſelves: And if this were not the caſe, we can ſoon build navies to force and protect a trade, &c." Of this Cato *here* intimates his ſuſpicion, becauſe, ſays he, it is not fully proved. Caſſandra will prove the firſt aſſertion from unqueſtionable authority; for Cato in his fourth letter ſays, "I will even go beyond him in expreſſing my good opinion of our ſituation. He thinks foreign aſſiſtance neceſſary to us; I think otherwiſe. We are able to defend our own right and to fruſtrate the attempt of any nation upon earth, to govern us by force." Caſſandra hopes, in a ſhort time, to prove every aſſertion of *Common Senſe* from the ſame authority; he wiſhes every poſition of Cato was equally conſiſtent with Common Senſe.

P. S. As the *Common Man* has called us to a fair diſcuſſion of the point, we once for all requeſt every printer on the continent, who publiſhes Cato's letters, to publiſh our replies, and particularly Mr. *Sower*, of Germantown, that the ſubject may not only have a full diſcuſſion, but a fair hearing.

CASSANDRA.

To the PEOPLE *of* PENNSYLVANIA.

LETTER VI.

IN the concluſion of my laſt letter, I charged the author of Common Senſe with perverting the ſcripture in his account of the origin of the *Jewiſh monarchy*. I proceed to offer ſome remarks in ſupport of that charge.

"Monarchy," ſays he (meaning probably the inſtitution of monarchy) "is ranked in ſcripture as one of the ſins of the Jews, for which a curſe in reſerve is denounced againſt them. The hiſtory of that tranſaction" (either the tranſaction of monarchy, or the tranſaction of denouncing a curſe in reſerve) "is worth attending to."

This confuſed propoſition he endeavours to eſtabliſh, by a commentary (upon 1 Samuel, ch. 8.) full as far-fetched and ridiculous as he will probably ſay mine is upon the prophecy of *Mount Seir*. But this matter muſt be treated more *ſeriouſly*, for the ſake of a country, in which (God be thanked) the Scriptures are read and regarded with that reverence which is due to a revelation from Heaven; I muſt therefore endeavour to reſcue, out of our author's hands, that portion of the ſacred hiſtory, which he has converted into a libel againſt the civil conſtitution of Great-Britain; and ſhew in what ſenſe the paſſage has been univerſally received, as well by the Jews themſelves, as by commentators venerable for their piety and learning, in every Chriſtian country.

The Jews were long privileged with a peculiar form of government, called a *Theocracy*; under which the "Almighty either ſtirred up ſome perſon, by an immediate ſignification of his will, to be their judge; or, when there was none, ruled their proceedings himſelf, by *Urim* and *Thummim*, directing what courſe they *were to follow in the public concerns of the nation*."* But they were of an ungovernable temper, fond of pomp as well as dominion over their neighbours; and, being diſguſted with the miſconduct of Samuel's ſons, whom, in his old age, he had appointed his aſſiſtant-judges over Iſrael, they came to him, and intreated him to appoint a king, who might rule their nation, and avenge them of the Philiſtines. Samuel, deeply afflicted at the impious deſign they entertained of rejecting the divine government, prays to the Almighty for directions; who authorizes him to *hearken to their voice*; *for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me* (ſays God) *that I ſhould not reign over them*. He alſo inſtructs Samuel to enter a *ſolemn proteſt* againſt them for their folly and ingratitude, in preferring a *human* to a *divine* government; and to *ſhew them the manner of the king that ſhall reign over them*, ſince they deſired a *king to judge them like all the nations*.

Now, all the nations, which they knew, were ruled by kings whoſe ARBITRARY will ſtood in the place of LAW; and it appears alſo that the Jews, ſince the day that they were brought out of Egypt, had ſtill retained a particular hankering after the cuſtoms of that country. The Almighty, therefore, by his prophet, not only ſignifies his diſpleaſure againſt all ſuch arbitrary rulers, but againſt every people who would impiouſly and fooliſhly prefer ſuch a government to one immediately under himſelf, where, in his providence, he might think fit to appoint ſuch a one. And ſo far I have no difference with our author. But Samuel proceeds further to vaſion with the Jews, and in the 12th chapter reminds

* *Jewiſh Commentary.*

them, by the hands of their judges, Moſes, Joſhua, Gideon, &c. having with a ſtrong hand brought them out of Egypt; having ſubdued the Aſſyrians, Ammonites, Moabites and Philiſtines before them; and that, for all this, they preferred a government even after the moſt corrupt models, to his juſt and righteous government. And, to convince them ſtill further of their folly and ingratitude, the prophet appeals to a ſignal, which he would give them from heaven. He accordingly calls down an uncommon ſtorm, in the midſt of harveſt, and the aſtoniſhed multitude cry out—WE HAVE ADDED TO OUR SIN THIS EVIL TO ASK US A KING.

Here our author erects his ſtandard; and here he compliments himſelf with the mockery of triumph. "Theſe portions of ſcripture (ſays he, in all the aſſurance of infallibility) are direct and poſitive. They admit of no equivocal conſtruction. That the ALMIGHTY hath here *entered his proteſt* againſt MONARCHICAL GOVERNMENT is *true*, or the Scripture is *falſe*."---But I will take the liberty to ſay that the Scripture is *true*, and that this author's inference is ſhamefully *falſe*; nay further, that from the whole ſpirit of the paſſage, as well as the reaſon of things, it is to be inferred that the Almighty would have as ſtrongly expreſſed his diſpleaſure againſt the Jews, had they rejected his government for one of their own appointment, whether monarchical or democratical---whether it had been to be adminiſtered by *one* man or a *thouſand* men.

The author had ſaid before, that Samuel did not ſhew the manner of any "*particular* king, *but the general manner of the kings of the earth*, whom Iſrael was ſo eagerly copying after." If he means to confine himſelf to theſe kings, I have given them to him to make the moſt of them. But if he means to argue from particulars to generals, and to make the old prophet extend his *proteſt* againſt all monarchical governments, ſuch as were to ſubſiſt ſome thouſands of years afterwards, however limited and mixed, particularly that of Great-Britain (which muſt certainly be our author's meaning, or he proves nothing to his purpoſe) I ſay, if this be his meaning, I cannot ſo eaſily part with him. For in this lies our whole difference; and the particular caſe of the Jews cannot be applied to any other nation, in this inſtance, as none elſe was ever in ſimilar circumſtances.

ACHERLEY, in his Britannic conſtitutions (and I think our author borrows ſome of his principles where they can ſerve his purpoſe) ſays expreſsly---"That the nation round about Iſrael veſted their kings with *abſolute power*---and that it is a wild imagination to ſay that the Iſraelitiſh kings, who were but copies (of theſe kings) ſhould either in their election or power, be a pattern to Great-Britain."---"There cannot be found, either in the old or new Teſtament, any *particular deſcription of the race of men which are or ever were kings of this nation.*" How then can there be a *Scripture proteſt* againſt a race of men who are not even deſcribed in Scripture? Mark † that Common Senſe.

Let me add one authority more, from a commentator at leaſt as good as our author, and who, nevertheleſs, flatly contradicts him---I mean the celebrated GROTIUS. He tells us, that Samuel, in this paſſage, does not ſpeak of what our author calls the "general manner of kings," or the *juſt and honeſt right* of a king to do ſuch things, becauſe his *right* is otherwiſe deſcribed elſewhere, as ſhall be ſhewn. The prophet only ſpeaks of *ſuch a right* as the kings round about Iſrael had acquired, which was not a *true right*; for ſuch is not the ſignification of the original word *miſhput*, but ſuch an action as (being founded in might and violence) hath the *effectum juris*, or comes in the place of *right*.

Grotius, I fear, is too learned for us inferior writers (*ſcriptores minorum gentium*) to follow him in this place. He is, however, well warranted in his interpretation, not only by the Hebrew text, but other clear paſſages of ſcripture, and particularly the 17th chapter of Deuteronomy; where, with the approbation of Heaven, the duty of a good king is deſcribed and limited. The Jews commonly underſtood this chapter as containing an abſolute promiſe from heaven, of a royal government, and a ſufficient authority for this requeſt made to Samuel more than three hundred years afterwards. Others underſtood it conditionally---that if they did reject their divine government, and ſet up one of their own appointment, God would permit them; but their king ſhould be choſen in the manner, and with the qualifications in that chapter deſcribed. All this, however, they diſregarded, when they aſked an *arbitrary king* like thoſe of their neighbouring nations; and therefore it is demonſtrably certain that Samuel, in entering his *proteſt* againſt ſuch kings, did not proteſt againſt kings or *monarchical governments generally*. Either this remark is true, or one part of the ſcripture is a direct contradiction to the other. But let the paſſage to which I refer ſpeak for itſelf.

When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee---and ſhalt ſay I will ſet a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me; thou ſhalt in any wiſe ſet him king over thee, whom the Lord thy God ſhall chuſe; one from among thy brethren, not a ſtranger, &c. It is further directed that he ſhall not be given to covetouſneſs---*nor multiply horſes nor wives to himſelf*---nor *greatly multiply to himſelf gold and ſilver*---That when he ſhall ſit *upon the throne of his kingdom, he ſhall write a copy of the law in a book* (which it was underſtood he was to do with his own hand)---That this book *ſhall be with him* (or always carried about him) *and he ſhall read therein all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, to keep the words of the law*, and make it the rule of his government, as well as private life. If he does this, God promiſes a bleſſing on his government, to *prolong his days in his kingdom*; HE AND HIS CHILDREN *in the midſt of Iſrael.*

Does not this ſmell ſtrong of *monarchy*, and even of *hereditary monarchy?* Is not ſome ſort of approbation, yea and a bleſſing, promiſed to both, when religiouſly adminiſtered, notwithſtanding all that this writer has ſaid to the contrary?

(The remainder will be in our next.)

† "*Mark that, Cato*" is a favourite expreſſion of our author, in the character of the Forefter.

LONDON, *January* 9.

The priſoners brought from America, and now in Cornwall, were taken by a ſmall party of Indians inhabiting the back ſettlements of New-York; two of their chiefs are now in town, and lodge in Ludlane, with ſeveral other American gentlemen lately come over.

Extract of a letter from Liverpool, Jan. 6.

"This morning arrived the Tartar prize from Boſton, after a fine paſſage of twenty one days, having on board ſeventy five rebels of the American army, which were taken in a privateer the Americans had fitted out at Boſton. She brought ſome freſh diſpatches, which were ſent up to the ſecretary of ſtate's office on Saturday night."

A commodore with ſix line of battle ſhips and eight frigates, will ſail, we are told, to America the beginning of March next; the above ſhips are to take on board their full complement of marines, and are to be laden as deep as poſſible with proviſions, &c.

The council, it is ſaid, is much agitated with contrary opinions ſince general Burgoyne's arrival from Boſton; ſome, we are told, are for conciliatory meaſures.

By a letter from Rochfort, we are aſſured thirteen frigates are fitting out at that port only, for the American ſettlements, each of which is to carry over land forces.

Preſs warrants are expected to be iſſued out ſoon, as the captains of all the outward bound ſhips have been very ſolicitous to procure protections.

Orders have been ſent to Plymouth for all the guard-ſhips there to take on board their full complement of men, as in time of war.

Orders have been ſent to all the out-ports, to be very cautious, and ſtrict in examining all perſons and veſſels, &c. that may be judged the leaſt ſuſpicious.

Orders are given for a quantity of beef and pork, ſufficient for ten ſhips of the line for ſix months, to be got ready as ſoon as poſſible.

We hear from Dublin, that the diſcontents of the people have been lately conſiderably increaſed by the appointments given to Mr. Jenkinſon, Welbore Ellis and lord Clare, whom the Iriſh hold in a very contemptible light; the coffee-houſes in Dublin abound with the moſt virulent abuſe againſt theſe miniſterial favourites, for attempting to get an increaſe of ſalary annexed to offices, which are mere ſinecures and a burden to the nation; nay the Iriſh gentlemen in the intereſt of the crown, think themſelves ill uſed by having ſuch appointments beſtowed on Jenkinſon and Ellis, who are ſtrangers to the country, and conſequently no ways intereſted in its proſperity, farther than it may anſwer the particular views of their patron.

A compact is lately ſigned between our court and that of three northern powers, by which they have ſtipulated to furniſh Great-Britain between them with 60,000 troops, the better to enable the latter to carry on the continental war.

Several tranſports are brought up to the tower in order to take in cannon, balls, and other warlike ſtores, for Boſton; which tranſports are to be convoyed by ſix men of war, to prevent their being taken by the provincials.

A ſmall veſſel will be diſpatched to America this week, with orders for all the tranſports that have delivered their cargoes at Boſton, &c. to leave that place immediately, and return to England with all expedition.

Monday a brig from Quebec arrived at Portſmouth. She brings an account of the provincials having taken Montreal.

Some diſtinguiſhed members of the minority have, it is confidently ſaid, been offered to have their names inſerted in the commiſſion appointing delegates to *pardon* the American colonies, which ſeveral of them have accepted.

BOSTON, *March* 29.

The addreſs of the hon. council and houſe of repreſentatives, to his excellency GEORGE WASINGTON, *Eſq; general and commander in chief of the forces of the united colonies.*

May it pleaſe your excellency,

WHEN the liberties of America were attacked by the violent hand of oppreſſion—when troops hoſtile to the rights of humanity, invaded this colony, ſeized our capital, and ſpread havock and deſtruction around it—when our virtuous ſons were murdered, and our houſes deſtroyed by the troops of Britain—the inhabitants of this, and the other American colonies, impelled by ſelf-preſervation and the love of freedom, forgetting their domeſtic concerns, determined reſolutely and unitedly to oppoſe the ſons of tyranny.

Convinced of the vaſt importance of having a gentleman of great military accompliſhments, to diſciipline, lead and conduct the forces of the colonies, it gave us the greateſt ſatisfaction to hear that the honourable congreſs of the united colonies, had made choice of a gentleman thus qualified, who leaving the pleaſures of domeſtic and rural life, was ready to undertake the arduous taſk. And your nobly declining to accept the pecuniary emoluments annexed to this high office, fully evidenced to us that a warm regard to the ſacred rights of humanity, and ſincere love to your country, ſolely influenced you in the acceptance of this important truſt.

From your acknowledged abilities as a ſoldier, and your virtues in public and private life, we had the moſt pleaſing hopes; but the fortitude and equanimity ſo conſpicuous in your conduct; the wiſdom of your councils; the mild, yet ſtrict government of the army; your attention to the civil conſtitution of this colony; the regard you have at all times ſhewn for the lives and health of thoſe under your command; the fatigues you have with cheerfulneſs endured; the regard you have ſhewn for the preſervation of our metropolis, and the great addreſs with which our military operations have been conducted, have exceeded our moſt ſanguine expectations, and demand the warmeſt returns of gratitude.

The ſupreme ruler of the univerſe having ſmiled on our arms, and crowned your labours with remarkable ſucceſs; we are now, without that effuſion of blood, we ſo much wiſhed to avoid, again in the quiet poſſeſſion of our capital; the wiſdom and prudence of thoſe movements, which have obliged the enemy to abandon our metropolis, will ever be remembered by the inhabitants of this colony.

May you ſtill go on approved by heaven, revered by all good men, and dreaded by thoſe tyrants who claim their fellow men as their property. May the united colonies be defended from ſlavery by your victorious arms. May they ſtill ſee their enemies flying before you; and (the deliverance of your country being effected) may you, in retirement, enjoy that peace and ſatisfaction of mind, which always attends the good and juſt, and long be remembered by a grateful poſterity, as the founder of their laſting eſtabliſhment, and have your name enrolled with the wiſeſt and beſt of legiſlators, and greateſt benefactors to mankind.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S ANSWER.

GENTLEMEN,

I return you my moſt ſincere and hearty thanks, for your polite addreſs; and feel myſelf called upon by every principle of gratitude, to acknowledge the honour you have done me in this teſtimonial of your approbation of my appointment to the exalted ſtation I now fill; and what is more pleaſing, of my conduct in diſcharging its important duties.

When the councils of the Britiſh nation had formed a plan for enſlaving America, and depriving her ſons of their moſt ſacred and invaluable privileges, againſt the cleareſt remonſtrances of the conſtitution—of juſtice and of truth; and to execute their ſchemes, had appealed to the ſword, I eſteemed it my duty to take a part in the conteſt, and more eſpecially, when called thereto by the unſolicited ſuffrages of the repreſentatives of a free people; wiſhing for no other reward, than that ariſing from a conſcientious diſcharge of the important truſt, and that my ſervices might contribute to the eſtabliſhment of freedom and peace, upon a permanent foundation, and merit the applauſe of my countrymen, and every virtuous citizen.

Your profeſſions of my attention to the civil conſtitution of this colony, whilſt acting in the line of my department, alſo demand my grateful thanks. A regard to every provincial inſtitution, where not incompatible with the common intereſt, I hold a principal of duty and of policy, and ſhall ever form a part of my conduct. Had I not learnt this before, the happy experience of the advantages reſulting from a friendly intercourſe with your honourable body, their ready and willing concurrence to aid and to counſel whenever called upon in caſes of difficulty and emergency, would have taught me the uſeful leſſon.

That the metropolis of your colony is now relieved from the cruel and oppreſſive invaſion of thoſe who were ſent to erect the ſtandard of lawleſs domination, and to trample on the rights of humanity, and is again open and free for its rightful poſſeſſors, muſt give pleaſure to every virtuous and ſympathetic heart, and being effected without the blood of our ſoldiers and fellow citizens, muſt be aſcribed to the interpoſition of that providence, which has manifeſtly appeared in our behalf through the whole of this important ſtruggle, as well as to the meaſures purſued for bringing about the happy event.

May that being who is powerful to ſave, and in whoſe hands is the fate of nations, look down with an eye of tender pity and compaſſion, upon the whole of the united colonies; may he continue to ſmile upon their counſels and arms, and crown them with ſucceſs, whilſt employed in the cauſe of virtue and of mankind. May this diſtreſſed colony and its capital, and every part of this wide extended continent, through his divine favour, be reſtored to more than their former luſtre and once happy ſtate, and have peace, liberty and ſafety ſecured upon a ſolid, permanent, and laſting foundation.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

WATERTOWN. *April* 2.

Laſt Wedneſday capt. Manly took and ſent into Beverly, a large brig, after ſome reſiſtance. This veſſel was purchaſed by William Jackſon, at the Brazen head, who with Crean Bruſh, and a number of others women and children, were on board, beſides a ſergeant and 12 privates, of the 4th or king's own regiment, who are made priſoners. She was bound for Halifax, and has on board a variety of articles; ſhe is eſtimated to be worth about 35,000l. ſterling.

Since our laſt the ſelect men of the town of Boſton, waited upon his excellency gen. WASHINGTON with the following addreſs, viz.

May it pleaſe your excellency,

THE ſelect men of Boſton, in behalf of themſelves and fellow citizens, with all grateful reſpect, congratulate your excellency on the ſucceſs of your military operations, in the recovery of this town from an enemy, collected from the once reſpected Britons, who, in this inſtance, are characterized by malice and fraud, rapine and plunder, in every trace left behind them.

Happy are we, that this acquiſition has been made with ſo little effuſion of human blood, which, next to the divine favour, permit us to aſcribe to your excellency's wiſdom, evidenced in every part of a long beſiegement.

If it be poſſible to enhance the noble feelings of that perſon who, from the moſt affluent enjoyments, could throw himſelf into the hardſhips of a camp to ſave his country, uncertain of ſucceſs, 'tis then poſſible this victory will heighten your excellency's happineſs, when you conſider you have not only ſaved a large, elegant, and once populous city from deſtruction; but relieved the few wretched inhabitants from all the horrors of a beſieged town, from the inſults and abuſes of a diſgraced and chagrined army, and reſtored many inhabitants to their quiet habitations, who had fled for ſafety to the boſom of their country.

May your excellency live to ſee the juſt rights of America ſettled on a firm baſis, which felicity we ſincerely wiſh you, and at a late period may that felicity be changed into happineſs eternal.

JOHN SCOLLY,
TIMO. NEWELL,
THO. MARSHALL,
SAMUEL AUSTIN,
OLIVER WENDELL,
JOHN PITTS.
} Select men of BOSTON.

To his excellency GEORGE WASHINGTON, *Eſq; general of the united forces in America.*

HIS EXCELLENCY'S ANSWER.

To the ſelect men and citizens of Boſton.

GENTLEMEN,

YOUR congratulations on the ſucceſs of the American arms gives me the greateſt pleaſure.

I moſt ſincerely rejoice with you on your being once more in the quiet poſſeſſion of your former habitations; and what greatly adds to my happineſs, that this be-

I am exceedingly [illegible] we pleaded we entered [illegible] cause in the cause of freedom, and [illegible] trade with which you have distressed the greatest of all human calamities [illegible] you to the grateful remembrance of your American brethren; and I heartily pray that the hand of tyranny may never more disturb your repose, and that every bleſſing of a kind providence may give happineſs and proſperity to the town of Boſton.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

[redacted] O R T, *April* 8.

Laſt Friday the miniſterial fleet went a little without the mouth of our harbour, and in the evening they all returned and anchored between Gould iſland and Coddington's point, except the Glaſgow of 24 guns, and a ſmall tender, which kept out all night. As ſoon as it was light the next morning, a party of the troops ſtationed on this iſland got down two of their 18 pounders upon the point, and played ſo well upon thoſe worſe than Algerine rovers, that they hulled the Roſe 2 or 3 times, the Nautilus once or twice, and ſent one ſhot through and through one of the armed tenders, upon which capt Wallace, of the Roſe, ſent a boat to cut away the buoy of his anchor, then ſlipped his cable, and made off as faſt as poſſible, and the reſt of his fleet followed in the utmoſt hurry and confuſion, having fired about 15 cannon upon our people without the leaſt effect, though they ſtood in conſiderable numbers as open as they could well be, without [redacted] leaſt breaſtwork or other ſhelter.

Yeſterday in the forenoon, as a company of American regulars were getting up the cable and anchor which the Glaſgow had a little before left in her great fright, a large prize ſloop came in, which Wallace had carried out with him the day before; and it being a very thick air, and ſhe expecting to find the Glaſgow lying where ſhe was left, got cloſe in with the boat before they diſcovered her, when the boat immediately laid her aboard, and brought her in here. She had on board 7 men and one woman. This ſloop was loaded with flour, &c. and was, when taken by the pirates, bound from Maryland to Providence.

Laſt week nine men deſerted from the miniſterial navy on this ſtation, and brought off three boats.

N E W - Y O R K, *April* 15.

By a gentleman who was preſent yeſterday fe'nnight, on Staten Iſland, about nine miles from this city; we are informed, that the riflemen who were ſtationed on that iſland to guard it againſt the depredations of the miniſterial robbers on board the king's ſhips in the bay, haſt received intelligence, that the Savage ſloop and a tender had come as near the ſhore as they could with ſafety, and had ſent on ſhore two of their boats and a number of men, who had placed a centinel with his muſket and colours on an eminence; when our riflemen appeared the [illegible]onel fired, ſtruck his colours, and ran for the [illegible] with all ſpeed; in the mean time the ſhip began [illegible] cover the embarkation of her men, who were [illegible] to their boats, but our brave riflemen, with [illegible] alled agility, out-ran them, and notwithſtanding the fire from the ſhip, ſurrounded the men, took ten of them priſoners, and ſeized [illegible] of their boats, the other puſhed off and two [illegible] in it; one of the riflemen ran after it in the water, but miſſing his graſp, fired and killed one of the men, who fell over-board, the other by lying on his back rowed to the veſſel. The ſavage kept up a continual fire for ſome hours, without the leaſt hurt to any of our men, who lay ſnug behind the rocks, and defied their thunder, and at lucid intervals fired at the ſhip. One man was ſeen to tumble off the quarter-deck into the water, whom they took to be an officer. More, it is thought, were killed. In a few hours there was not one man on board the ſhip appeared on deck: the [illegible]der ſlipt her cable, and the ſhip cut hers, and both [illegible] down with the tide, which proved kinder to them than the riflemen. Among the priſoners is one Killigrew, who had been one of our pilots, but was baſe enough to deſert his country's cauſe, and aſſiſt its enemies; however the fox is caught.

Saturday laſt his excellency general Waſhington arrived here from Cambridge, attended by [redacted] Polfrey, Eſq; his aid de-camp, Horatio Gates, Eſq; adjutant-general, and ſeveral other gentlemen of diſtinction.

Admiral Hopkins, with the continental fleet under his command, arrived at New-London laſt Saturday morning from a cruize, and brought in with him a large quantity of cannon, mortars, &c. which he took at New-Providence, as alſo the governor of that iſland: he alſo carried in with him a bomb brig and three tenders belonging to capt. Wallace's fleet, which he took off Block iſland; and we hear the admiral and ſome part of the fleet fell in with his majeſty's ſhip the Glaſgow of 20 guns, the morning before he arrived, with whom he had a very hot engagement, but as the New-London paper did not come to hand laſt Saturday night, we have not yet been able to learn the particulars.

We hear his majeſty's ſhips Phœnix, Savage and Nautilus now on this ſtation, will fall down to Sandy-Hook this day or to-morrow.

Extract of a letter from Philadelphia, dated April 11.

"This morning arrived a ſloop mounting ſix three pounders, and eight or ten ſwivels, late a tender belonging to the Liverpool man of war, and commanded by a lieutenant Boucher, of ſaid ſloop, having 35 picked men on board, who on Saturday laſt off the capes of Virginia, fell in with capt. Barry of the continental brig called the Lexington. A battle enſued, which was continued deſperately for one hour and 20 minutes, when the tender ſtruck. Capt. Barry loſt two men killed and had four wounded. The other, one man killed and one wounded."

April 17. Whereas the Aſia having quitted her ſtation, and left the harbour, the navigation between this city and New-Jerſey, by the kills, is become quite ſafe; the troops upon Staten-Iſland and Bergen Neck, are to let all boats coming to New-York, or returning to Jerſey, to paſs and repaſs without moleſtation. Given at head-quarters, in New-York, 14th April, 1776.

HORATIO GATES, adjutant-general.

[illegible] meaſures be derived on the [illegible] from conſiderations (other than the convenience of ſafety in ſuch caſes) on the public poſt roads, ſtopping and opening the mails, and detaining letters from the conſtitutional poſt; it is therefore reſolved, that no committees, but the council or committee of ſafety, in each colony, or ſuch perſon as they ſhall, on extraordinary occaſions, authoriſe, ſhall ſtop the conſtitutional poſt, open the mail, or detain any letters therefrom.

Extract from the minutes,

CHARLES THOMPSON, ſec.

Extract of a letter from Eſeck Hopkins, Eſq; commander in chief of the Americaſ fleet, to the preſident of the congreſs, dated on board the ſhip Alfred, New-London harbour, April 9, 1776.

"When [redacted] put to ſea, on the 17th of February, from Cape-Henlopen, not thinking we were in a condition to keep on a cold coaſt, I appointed our rendezvous at Abacco, one of the Bahama iſlands.

"I arrived at the rendezvous, in order to wait for them fifteen days, agreeable to orders. I then formed an expedition againſt New-Providence, which I put in execution the third of March, by landing 200 marines under the command of capt. Nicholas, and fifty ſailors under the command of lieutenant We[illegible]ver, of the Cabot, who was well acquainted there. The ſame day they took poſſeſſion of a ſmall fort, of ſeventeen pieces of cannon, without any oppoſition, ſave five guns which were fired at them without doing any damage. I received, that evening, an account that they had two hundred and odd men in the main fort, all inhabitants. I then cauſed a manifeſto to be publiſhed, the purport of which was, that the inhabitants and their property ſhould be ſafe, if they did not oppoſe me in taking poſſeſſion of the fort and king's ſtores. This had the deſired effect, for the inhabitants left the fort almoſt alone. Captain Nicholas, by my order, ſent to the governor for the keys of the fort, which were delivered, and the troops marched directly in, where we found the ſeveral warlike ſtores agreeable to the inventory incloſed; but the governor ſent 150 barrels of powder off in a ſmall ſloop the night before. I have taken the governor, Montford Browne, the lieutenant gov[illegible]nor, who is a half pay officer, and Mr. Thomas Arwin, who is a counſellor and collector of his majeſty's quit-rents in South-Carolina; and it appears, by the Court Calendar, that he is alſo inſpector-general of his majeſty's cuſtoms of North-America. Since we came out, we have loſt company with the Waſp.

"The fourth inſtant we fell in with the eaſt end of Long-Iſland, and took the ſchooner ——, commanded by young Wallace, of 6 carriage guns and 8 ſwivels; and the 5th we took the bomb brig of [illegible] guns and 2 howitzers, 10 ſwivels and 48 hands, well found with all ſorts of ſtores, arms, powder, &c. The ſixth in the morning we fell in with the Glaſgow, and her tender, and engaged her near three hours. We loſt ſix men killed, and as many wounded. The Cabot had four men killed and 7 wounded, the captain is among the latter. The Columbus had one man who loſt his arm. We received a conſiderable damage in our ſhip, but the greateſt was in having our wheel rope and blocks ſhot away, which gave the Glaſgow time to make ſail, and I did not think proper to follow as it would have brought on an action with the whole of their fleet, and I had upwards of thirty of our beſt ſeamen on board the prizes. I therefore thought it moſt prudent to give over the chaſe, and ſecure our prizes, and having taken the Glaſgow's tender, arrived the ſeventh with all the fleet.

"Among the dead are Mr. Sinclair Seymour, maſter of the Cabot, a good officer; lieut. Wilſon, of the Cabot; and lieut. Fitzpatrick, of the Alfred.

"The officers all behaved well on board the Alfred; but too much praiſe cannot be given to the officers of the Cabot, who gave and ſuſtained the whole fire for ſome conſiderable time [illegible]within piſtol ſhot."

INVENTORY *of* STORES, *taken at Fort Montague, March* 3, 1776.

17 cannon, from 9 to 36 pounders.
1240 round ſhot.
121 ſhells.
81 iron trucks for carriages.
22 copper hoops.
2 copper powder meaſures.
1 worm.
1 ladle.
Some old iron, copper and lead.

STORES taken at Fort Naſſau, March 4, 1776.

71 cannon, from 9 to 32 pounders.
15 mortars, from 4 to 11 inches diameter, and beds.
5337 ſhells.
9831 round ſhot, and 165 chain and double head ditto.
140 hand grenadoes.
816 fuzes, or falſe fires.
99 ſponges, rammers and worms.
46 copper ladles.
427 copper hoops, and 5 copper powder meaſures.
220 iron trucks for carriages.
3 bells.
24 caſks of powder.
A quantity of match rope, not weighed.
2 double blocks, with braſs ſheaſs.
1 ſcale-beam, 1 hammer, 3 tanned hides.
2 boxes of tallow candles.
4 barrels of flour, 4 ditto bread, 1 ditto beef.
Part of a caſk of ſpirit, 1 ſun-dial, and 1 Engliſh flag.

Publiſhed by order of congreſs,

CHARLES THOMSON, ſecretary.

Extract of a letter from an officer on board the Alfred ſhip of war, dated New-London harbour, April 10, 1776.

"I doubt not but you have heard of our arrival at this place, and of our engagement with the Glaſgow man of war, of which I ſhall now give you ſome particulars.

"On the fourth inſtant we made the eaſt end of Long-Iſland, and diſcovered the Columbus, who had parted from us the night before, to windward, with a ſchooner of [illegible] guns (one of capt. Wallace's tenders) which ſhe had taken in the morning. We made Block-Iſland in the afternoon, when the commodore ordered the brigs to ſtand in for Rhode-Iſland to ſee if any more of the fleet were out, and to join us the next morning.

I ſhall not be able to give you a particular account of the engagement with the Glaſgow, as I was on the quarter-deck, and had my attention taken up with the enemy in the ſtern, but ſhall give you the beſt account I can collect from the officers and men who were in the fore part of the ſhip.

"On the fifth inſtant, at day-light, we diſcovered a ſail to the eaſtward, and ſoon after another, and another, and ſoon found them to be the Glaſgow and her tender, and the Columbus and her prize. We immediately made the ſignal for a general chaſe, and ſoon found we had the ſailing of the Glaſgow, and ſhould ſoon be up with her. The Cabot was foremoſt in the fleet, our ſhip cloſe after, not more than 100 yards behind, but to windward with[illegible]. When the brig came cloſe up ſhe was hailed by the ſhip, which we then learned was the Glaſgow man of war. The brig immediately fired a broadſide, and received a return two-fold, which, owing to the weight of metal, damaged her ſo much in her hull and rigging, that ſhe was obliged to retire for a while to refit. Our ſhip then came up (not having it in our power to fire a ſhot before without hurting the brig) and engaged her ſide by ſide for three glaſſes, as hot as it could poſſibly be on both ſides.

"The firſt broadſide ſhe fired, my 2d lieutenant fell dead by my ſide, having a muſket-ball through his head. In him I have loſt a worthy officer, a ſincere friend, and a companion that was beloved by all the ſhip's company. Unfortunately for us, our tiller-rope and main-brace were ſhot away ſoon after the fight began, which made the ſhip broach to, and gave the enemy an opportunity of raking fore and aft. The engagement continued until day-light, at which time ſhe crouded all the ſail ſhe could, and ſtood in for New-Port; our rigging was ſo much hurt, that we could not make ſail time enough to come up with her again. At ſunriſe the commodore made the ſignal to leave off chaſing, he not thinking it prudent to riſk the prizes near the land, leſt the whole fleet ſhould come out of the harbour. The Glaſgow continued firing ſignal-guns the whole day after. I loſt three of my people out of 12 that were on the quarter-deck, and two others who were in the barge were ſlightly wounded. Capt. Hopkins, of the Cabot, is wounded, his maſter killed, and the 2d lieutenant of marines is ſince dead of his wounds. Upon the whole, it was a very hot engagement, in which our ſhip and the brig were much damaged; but we have this conſolation, that the enemy ſuffered full as much—for, by ſeveral expreſſes from Rhode-Iſland, we are aſſured that it was with much difficulty ſhe got into port, with both pumps going."

The following proclamation was iſſued previous to the evacuation of Boſton by the miniſterial troops:

By his excellency WILLIAM HOWE, major general &c. &c. &c.

AS linen and woollen goods are articles much wanted by the rebels, and would aid and aſſiſt them in their rebellion, the commander in chief expects that all good ſubjects will uſe their utmoſt endeavours to have all ſuch articles conveyed from this place. Any who have not opportunity to convey their goods under their own care, may deliver them on board the Minerva, at Hubbard's wharf, to Crean Bruſh, Eſq; marked with their names, who will give a certificate of the delivery, and will oblige himſelf to return them to the owners, all unavoidable accidents excepted. If, after this notice, any perſon ſecretes or keeps in his poſſeſſion ſuch articles, he will be treated as a favourer of the rebels.

Boſton, April 16, 1776.

N E W B E R N, *March* 29.

A brig belonging to New-York, with wines from Liſbon, got into St. Euſtatia the 11th inſtant. The maſter ſays a requiſition was daily expected to be made by the court of Great-Britain for the delivery of all American veſſels in the port, which would undoubtedly be complied with. In Martinique and Guadaloupe there are at this time about 8000 troops, not long ſince arrived from France, who are induſtriouſly employed in repairing their old fortifications, and erecting new ones, particularly on the heights that command the plain through which the Britiſh troops paſſed to the back of Fort-Royal when they reduced that place.

The French appear exceedingly friendly to the American cauſe, which they would have promoted by a much larger ſupply of arms and ammunition than they have hitherto imported, had they not been doubtful of the Americans ſubmiſſion to the claims of parliament, and of courſe a diſcontinuance of the demand for warlike ſtores, which in that caſe would remain in the hands of the importers.

A privateer ſloop of 10 guns, and a fine brig of 16, were fitted out, the firſt in Martinique, the ſecond in St. Euſtatia, and ſent to America; and it is not to be doubted but that any continental armed veſſels that might come in thoſe ſeas would be admitted into the French ports, and protected while there.

A N N A P O L I S, April 22.

IN COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

RESOLVED, That there be a *CONVENTION* of the *DELEGATES* of this province held at the city of Annapolis, on Tueſday the 7th of May next.

By order,

G. DUVALL, clerk

The following are copies of the intercepted letters from lord George Germain, to his excellency Robert Eden, Eſq; governor of Maryland.

N° I.

Whitehall, 22d Dec. 1775.

To Robert Eden, Eſq; [illegible] governor of Maryland.

SIR,

IT was not till the 27th of November that your diſpatch to lord Dartmouth, of the 27th of Auguſt, was received here, when I had the honour of laying it be-

fore the king; and I have it in command from his majesty to express to you his majesty's approbation of your zeal for the public service, and of the unalterable attachment you have shewn to his person and government, from the first commencement of the present unhappy disputes, which have involved his majesty's faithful servants in the colonies in difficulties and distress, that are only to be equalled by the fortitude with which they are borne.

Your letter contains a great deal of very useful information, and your confidential communication of the characters of individuals, more especially of such as come over into England, is of great advantage; and you may rest assured that every possible precaution will be used that no part of your letter shall transpire.

An armament, consisting of seven regiments and a fleet of frigates and small ships, is now in readiness to proceed to the southern colonies, in order to attempt the restoration of legal government in that part of America. It will proceed in the first place to North-Carolina, and from thence either to South-Carolina or Virginia, as circumstances of greater or less advantage shall point out;---if to the latter, it may have very important consequences to the colony under your government; and therefore you will do well to consider of every means by which you may, in conjunction with lord Dunmore, give facility and assistance to its operations.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

GEO. GERMAIN.

N° II.

CIRCULAR. Whitehall, 23d December, 1775.

To Robert Eden, Esq; deputy governor of Maryland.

SIR,

THE king being determined, in concurrence with his parliament, to pursue the most vigorous measures for reducing his rebellious subjects in North-America to obedience, and for restoring legal government, has given the royal assent to the inclosed act, which I am commanded by his majesty to transmit to you, and at the same time to signify to you his majesty's pleasure, that you do exhort all persons, upon whom the execution of this law shall depend, to pay a due attention thereto, and to use their best endeavours for carrying the provisions of it into effect; and I trust that when his majesty's deluded subjects in the associated colonies are better apprized of the fatal consequence of the conduct they have adopted, and see the determined spirit of the nation to maintain its constitutional rights, they will avail themselves of the means which the justice and benevolence of the supreme legislature have held out to them, of being restored to the king's grace and peace, and that a happy and lasting reconciliation and union will be effected. And I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that, in order to accelerate this desirable object the proper steps have been taken for passing a commission under the great seal, in conformity to the last section but one of that act, and that the commissioner or commissioners to be appointed for that purpose will have full power to enquire into the state and condition of the colonies, and to confer with proper persons upon such points as may be necessary for effecting a restoration of the public tranquillity.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

GEO. GERMAIN.

To be sold by public vendue, for ready money, at Mr. Whetcroft's, in West-street, Annapolis, on Monday, May 6, 1776,

A VARIETY of merchandize, consisting principally of the following articles: figured sattin, Wilton, macaroni stuff, black mode, figured stuff, black figured everlasting, green callimanco, red napt cloth, great variety of silk ribbon, blue callimanco, brown durants, shalloon of different colours, twist and mohair, and a bag of human hair.

N. B. The sale to begin at 11 o'clock, a m.

The beautiful full-blooded hunter,

BAY BOLTON,

Full 16 hands high and well formed, a dark bay, eight years old,

STANDS on Constitution-hill, near Piscataway, and will cover mares this season at two guineas, or forty shillings the leap, if paid when the mare is taken away, or four pounds credit till the first of April 1777, and if not paid in that time to pay interest from the date. I have very fine pasture for mares, and will have great care taken of them, but will not be answerable in case of loss.

EDWARD EDELEN.

I think it needless to describe him as he is generally known; he stood last season at col. John Carlyle's plantation in Virginia. 10.7/6 w3

SPRIGHTLY

To be let to mares the ensuing season, at Schoolfield, Prince-George's county.

THE high bred English horse, SPRIGHTLY, full fifteen hands high, rising seven years old, is of a beautiful dark chesnut colour, was got by Wildman's Babram, his dam by Rogers's Babram, his grandam by Sedbury out of lord Portmore's Ebony; is well suited to breed for either the saddle or turf, being remarkably light, and quick in his movements, free from any blemish or incumbrance of gum, and is imagined equal to any horse on the continent, four mile heats at nine stone. He will be let at six dollars, for the season, and half a crown to the groom, and as at so low a rate the cash will be expected before the horse is led out. Good pasture for mares to be had at half a crown a week, or at half a dollar, with proper feeding; and mares above 15 miles distance two weeks gratis. tf

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April 16, 1776.

To be sold at public vendue, by the subscriber, on Thursday the 16th day of May next, on the premises, for sterling or current money, at the general exchange,

PART of a tract of land called Duvall's range, conveyed to the subscriber for 276 acres more or less, situate in Anne-Arundel county, on the east side of the north branch of Patuxent river. On this land are two tenements, with plenty of good board, shingle and rail timber; forty acres of good meadow may be made on the said land, with very little trouble; the tenements are in good repair and produce very fine tobacco and Indian corn. Twelve months credit will be given the purchaser, on giving bond on interest with security if required. The land may be viewed any time before the day of sale, by applying to the subscriber.

DAVID STEUART, Son of DAVID.

THE noted half blooded horse, Frederick Jones, full fifteen and a half hands high, a fine dapple gray, eight years old, strong, active and boney, stands at Notley-hall, Prince-George's county, and will cover at thirty shillings the season. Good Pasturage for mares gratis. 2 3w

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Bladensburg, April 10, 1776.

RAN away last night from the subscriber, an indented servant named JOHN TEASDALE, an English man, about twenty-two years of age, five feet six or seven inches high, well set, of a fair complexion and good countenance, wears his own short strait hair of a dark brown colour, and is by trade a cooper: he had on a blue fearnought sailor's top jacket about half worn, a waistcoat of London brown cloth, and ragged breeches of strong superfine dark drab cloth, a check shirt, and an old small brim'd dirty felt hat bound round the edging with white canvas. Whoever secures said servant and brings him to me shall receive forty shillings reward and all reasonable charges

w3 2 WILLIAM SYDEBOTHAM.

April 15, 1776.

ALL persons indebted to George Matthews, late of Kingsbury furnace in Baltimore county, deceased, are desired to make immediate payment, to enable us to execute his will, and all those who have claims against him are desired to exhibit them properly authenticated, to

w8 2 T. RUSSELL and JAMES SMITH, } executors.

THERE is at the plantation of Isaac Simmons, near Herring-bay, in Anne-Arundel county, taken up as a stray, a dark bay horse, near fifteen hands high, a star in his forehead, has many white spots on his back, supposed to be hurt with a saddle, a bit of his right ear cut off, his mane hangs on the wrong side, his off hind foot white, shoes on about half worn, branded but cannot make it out. The owner may have him again on proving property and paying charges. 2 X w2

Harford county, March 21, 1776.

TAKEN up as a stray, a bright bay mare, about nine years old, thirteen hands and a half high, no brand appears, paces and trots, short dock. Any person proving property and paying charges may have her again.

2 X JOHN PACA.

April 10, 1776.

CARELESS.

STANDS the ensuing season at Strawberry-hill, within one mile of Annapolis, and will cover mares at six dollars the season, if pastured; four dollars, if not pastured; or two dollars, the single leap. CARELESS is a fine bay, rising five years, upwards of fourteen hands two inches, and was got by col. Baylor's Fearnought; his dam by Dove, his grand-dam by Othello, his great-grand-dam by old Spark, out of the high bred mare Queen Mab, who was the dam of col. Hopper's Pacolet. Good grass for mares. Indian corn will be taken in payment at 2 s. 6 d. per bushel, delivered at Strawberry-hill before the first of July, by

5w 3 THOMAS WILLIAMSON.

P. S. I will be answerable for no mares that may get away.

Bladensburg, April 1, 1776.

I HAVE for disposal, on very reasonable terms, a servant man, who has about three years to serve. He was bred a cutler, is an ingenious fellow in his business, and can do any country blacksmith's work. He might be very useful to any person in the gun or locksmith business.

w3 3 X JAMES HOGGAN.

SIX DOLLARS REWARD.

STRAYED away from the widow M'Donall's, between Baltimore and Annapolis, on Thursday night the 13th of March, out of the fodder house, a bay horse, about 14 hands and an half high, paces, trots, and gallops, marked C S on his left shoulder. Whoever takes up said horse, and brings him to capt. Samuel Maynard's at Herring-Creek, or to William Hayes, Fell's Point, Baltimore, shall receive the above reward, and reasonable charges paid if brought home. 4

JEREMIAH SATCHWELL, in West-street, Annapolis, to the military gentlemen.

AS the use of arms is become absolutely necessary for the preservation of American liberty, this is to inform the above gentlemen, that he makes all sorts of silver and fine metal sword hilts; likewise cleans and repairs the same. Those gentlemen who please to favour him with their custom, may depend on having their work done with the greatest punctuality and at the most reasonable rate, which he hopes will give satisfaction to the public in general, having served a regular apprenticeship to the said branches in London. 3 (tw)

N. B. All sorts of silversmith work done also.

Patuxent Iron-Works, February 6, 1776.

BEING desirous of settling the estate of our father, RICHARD SNOWDEN, late of Patuxent Iron-Works, deceased, we request all such as are indebted to said estate to make immediate payment, as no longer indulgence will be given them. Also all persons that are indebted to the Patuxent Iron-Works Company, of more than twelve months standing, are requested to come immediately and make payment; and those who have it not in their power to make immediate payment, it is expected they will come and settle their accounts by note or bond. If the above requests are not complied with, we shall take such methods as will compel a settlement, without respect to persons, although it will be disagreeable to

tf 4 SAMUEL and JOHN SNOWDEN.

Just published, and to be sold at the Printing-office,

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

CONVENTION

OF THE

PROVINCE OF MARYLAND,

Held at the City of Annapolis, on Thursday the 7th of December, 1775.

PREROGATIVE OFFICE,

March 11, 1776.

WHEREAS the records of the commissary's office are removed to Upper Marlborough, by the direction of the Council of Safety for the province of Maryland, I am directed to give this public notice, that the common business of that office will from henceforth be transacted at that place.

And as the commissary's courts are by law appointed to be held at the city of Annapolis, where the same must indispensably be continued, the commissary general, anxious to relieve as far as in his power the difficulties arising to the people, from the removal of the records to such distance from the capital, hath resolved to attend at both places in every week, which will be on the second Tuesdays of May, July, September, and November; and to that end, will hold his court every second Tuesday in said months at the city of Annapolis, for the convenience of the inhabitants of the Eastern-shore, and others whom it may best suit. And he will from thence proceed on the Thursday to Upper Marlborough, there to sit during the remainder of the week for the dispatch of public business.

I also give notice, that for the greater ease and convenience of the inhabitants of Anne-Arundel county, who may have business with me as deputy commissary of that county, I shall give attendance every Tuesday at the house of Mr. Cornelius Garretson in the city of Annapolis for that purpose.

tf 5 ELIE VALLETTE, register.

Wanted immediately, delivered at the contractor's store in Annapolis,

A QUANTITY of potatoes, parsneps, carrots, beans, cockstone beans, or any kind of Indian peas, for which will be given the highest prices, by

6 ISAAC M'HARD,

for Mr. ROBERT CUMMING.

Annapolis, March 26, 1776.

RAN away from the subscriber, an indented servant lad, named Edward Burford, born in Hampshire, about five feet two inches high, fair complexion and brown hair: had with him two cloth coats, one a London brown, the other of coarse light coloured cloth with waistcoat of the same, much worn, good buckskin breeches, ribb'd worsted stockings and English made shoes. He is very fond of liquor, and can give no better reason for his elopement, than that he often merited chastisement and never received it. He was seen at Mr. Jacob Sampson's in Prince-George's county, pretending leave to visit a ship mate. Should he be taken ten miles from home I will give 40 shillings reward on his return.

5 J. CLAPHAM.

ABRAHAM CLAUDE,

WATCHMAKER, JEWELLER, and SILVERSMITH,

Opposite Mrs. Johnson's tavern, ANNAPOLIS,

BEGS leave to acquaint the public in general, and his friends in particular, that he still continues to carry on the aforesaid trades in all their various branches, and at the most reasonable rates; also that he cleans and repairs all sorts of fire-arms, small swords, hangers, and cutlasses: He also makes hooks for swords in the neatest and most approved manner.

N. B. He has several grosses of hooks and eyes to dispose of cheap. 13.

ANNAPOLIS: Printed by FREDERICK GREEN.